ブラッドハーレーの馬車

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BRADHERLEY'S COACH

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Chapter 1

見返り峠の小唄坂

LOOKING BACK AT HOME

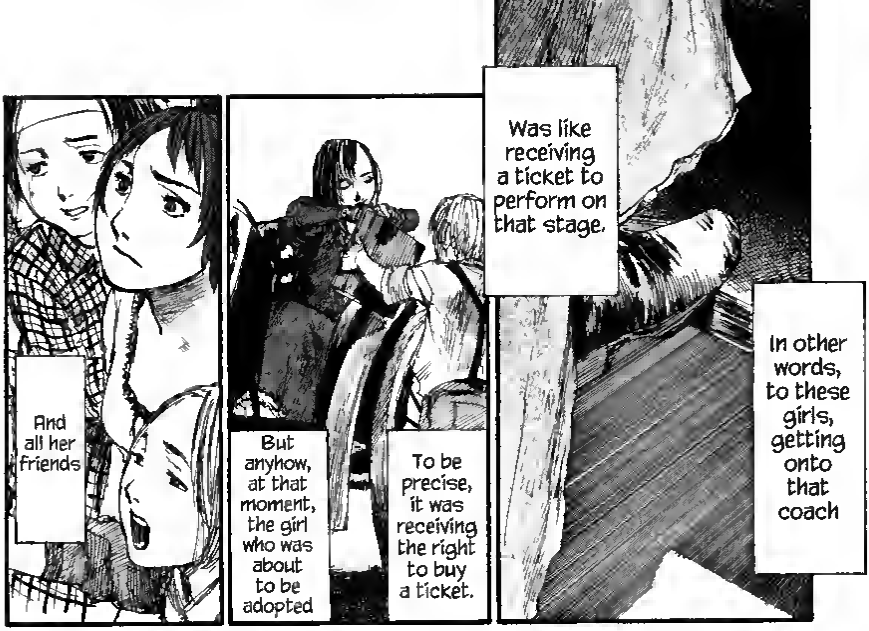
This year, the one chosen from the Willows orphanage was Diana.
TAKE CARE, DIANA!
CONGRATS, DIANA!
DI! THAT DRESS IS BEAUTIFUL!
DON'T FORGET TO COME BACK AND PLAY WITH US!
YOU'LL WRITE, WON'T YOU, DI?

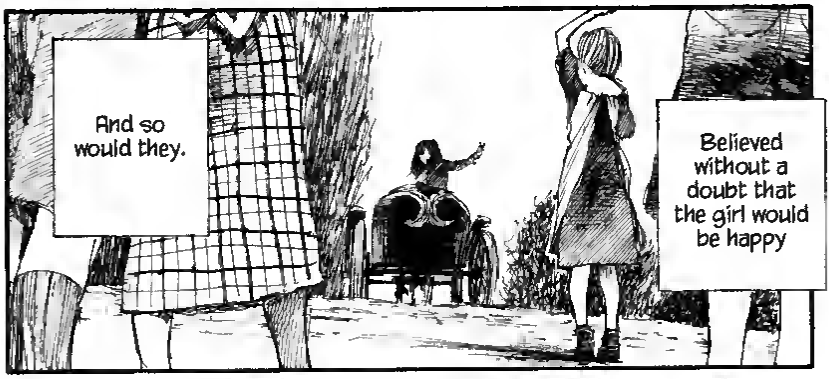
AHEM
...I'M SURE YOU'LL BE CHOSEN NEXT YEAR, CORDELIA.
I'M SORRY. PLEASE LET ME SAY GOODBYE TO THE TEACHERS FIRST.
AHH... GO AHEAD.
THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER ME THESE 14 YEARS.
MS REBECCA, MR SLOAN.

"Bradherley" — the 4th richest noble family in this country.
TODAY, I'LL BE ADOPTED INTO THE BRADHERLEY FAMILY.
The present head of the family is Nicola A. Bradherley, a member of the House of Lords.
But such things weren't what the children cared about ...
The girls were drawn to that name for another reason altogether.

Once a year, the teachers would bring the children to watch them. Words cannot express how much their little hearts were thrilled by the performance.
The Bradherley Episcopal Opera Troupe —
And one more thing —
every year, at the end of the night, the newest members of the troupe would make their debut.
The crowded stage was like a cold gust of air in the morning, instantly melting the frozen dreams of the night before.

That they all used to be orphans —
3 or 4 young ladies would take the stage... all of them Bradherley's foster daughters. And rumor had it

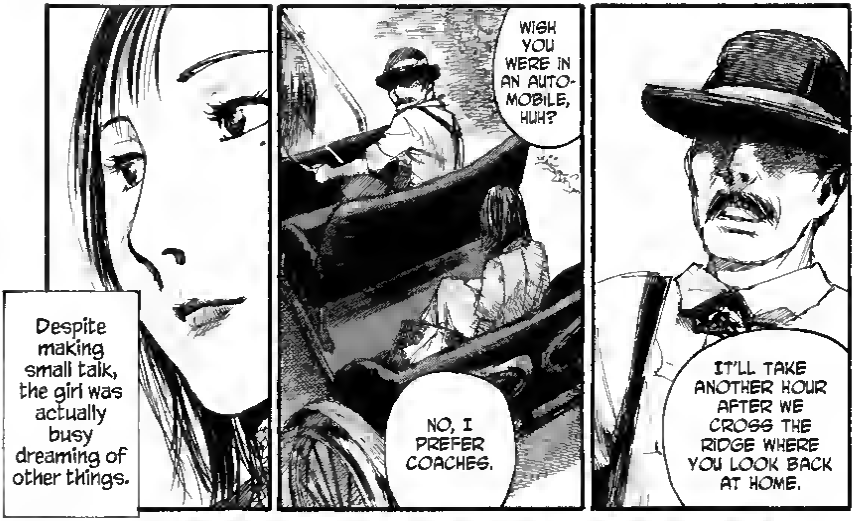

In other words, to these girls, getting onto that coach
Was like receiving a ticket to perform on that stage.
To be precise, it was receiving the right to buy a ticket.
But anyhow, at that moment, the girl who was about to be adopted
And all her friends


Believed without a doubt that the girl would be happy
And so would they.

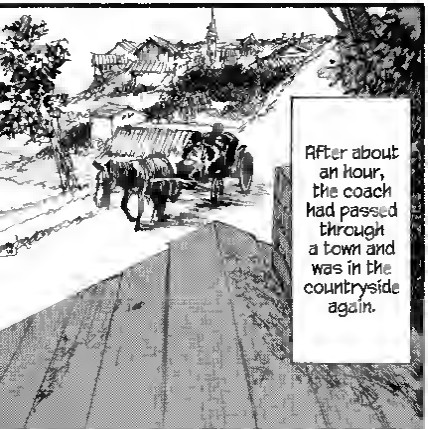
..IT'S STRANGE, I DON'T FEEL SAD AT ALL
DIANA LOOKED REALLY PRETTY TODAY...

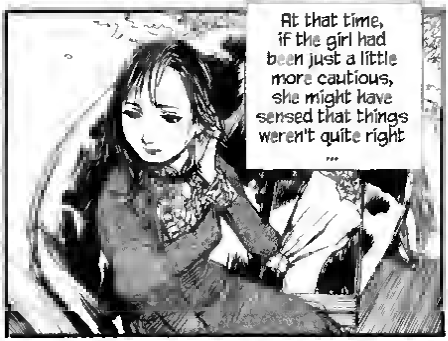
!
NEXT YEAR, I'LL...
BUT IT'S A PROMISE!
MS REBECCA!
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF, MA'AM.
AH..! CORDELIA,
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO SEE ME LIKE THIS...

... MA'AM...
BECAUSE DIANA WILL BE HAPPY WHERE SHE'S GOING.
YESTERDAY... I DECIDED I WOULDN'T CRY ANYMORE.
...
...
...
HMM... LET'S SEE.
HOW MUCH FURTHER IS IT TO THE CASTLE?

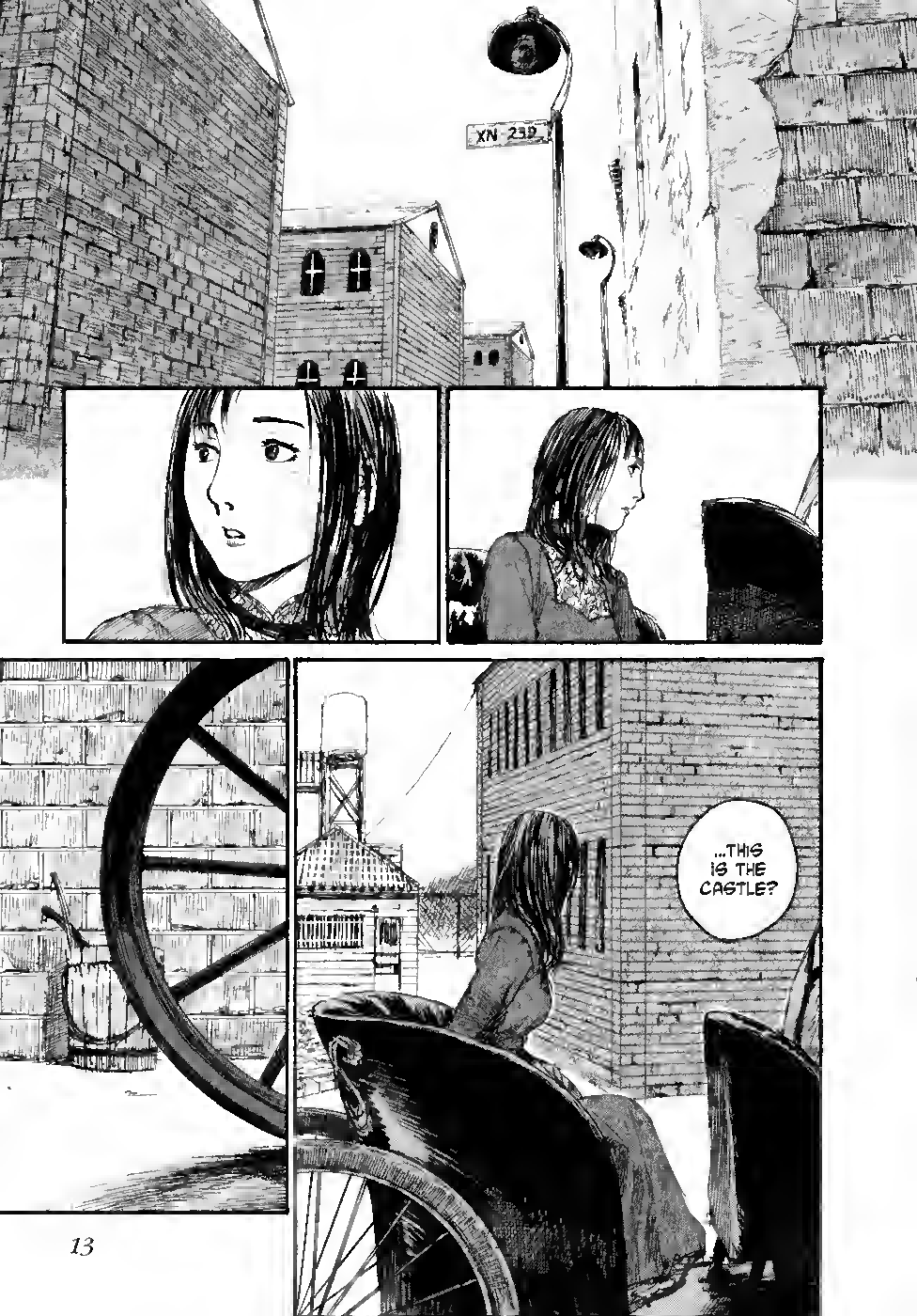

Despite making small talk, the girl was actually busy dreaming of other things.
WISH YOU WERE IN AN AUTO-MOBILE, HUH?
NO, I PREFER COACHES.
IT'LL TAKE ANOTHER HOUR AFTER WE CROSS THE RIDGE WHERE YOU LOOK BACK AT HOME.

Even if I can't be the heroine, I hope they'll give me a role where I can move people like that —
The actress playing the midwife in "Canaan" was amazing.


After about an hour, the coach had passed through a town and was in the countryside again.


At that time, if the girl had been just a little more cautious, she might have sensed that things weren't quite right ...

THIS IS...
She had never before seen such strange buildings surrounded by a huge wall.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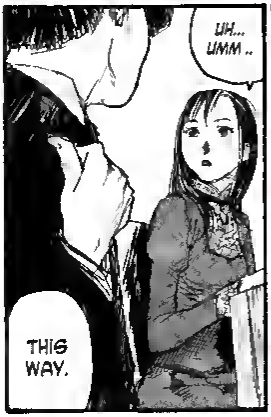
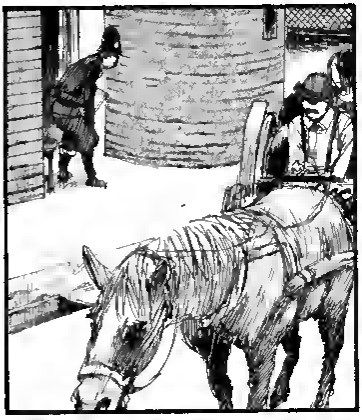
...THIS IS THE CASTLE?

MGRTINTEN
PRISON


UH... UMM..
THIS WAY.

GET DOWN.



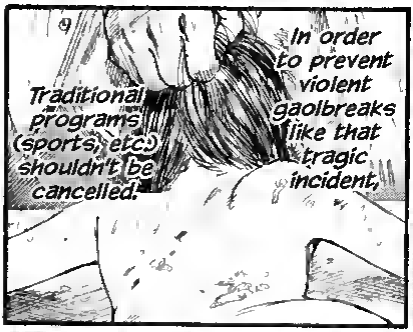
CHANGE INTO THIS.
Y-- YES!
NO MEDICAL PROBLEMS... IS THAT RIGHT?
FROM THE WINDY WILLOWS ORPHAN-AGE...
DIANA FORD...
YES MA'AM!
OK... UMM...
WHEN SHE'S DONE HERE, WALTER...

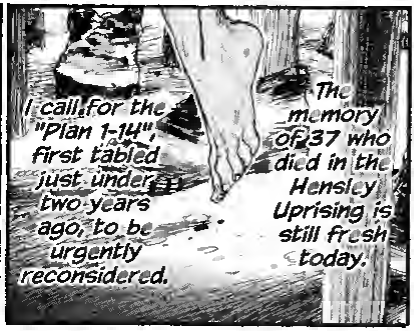
AH... AHHH ...
WAIT! OPEN UP...
SLAM
...HUH!?
...come to think of it, from the very beginning, she did have the feeling that things weren't quite right.

Girls from orphanages across the country were adopted into the Bradherley family to be trained for the opera troupe.
But the number of new girls announced every year
Was never more than 4 — what about the others?
What happened to the girls who didn't make it onto that stage?
"Paschal lambs"
Apparently that's what the girls who came here were called —

UHH...
HANG ON! I'M NEXT!
AH...
YOU'RE TAKING TOO LONG DAMMIT! IT'S MY TURN!

Summary of the discussion when "Plan 1-14" was resubmitted —
WHADDYA CALL ME?!
HOLD HER PROPERLY, IDIOT!


Traditional programs (sports, etc.) shouldn't be cancelled.
In order to prevent violent gaolbreaks like that tragic incident,

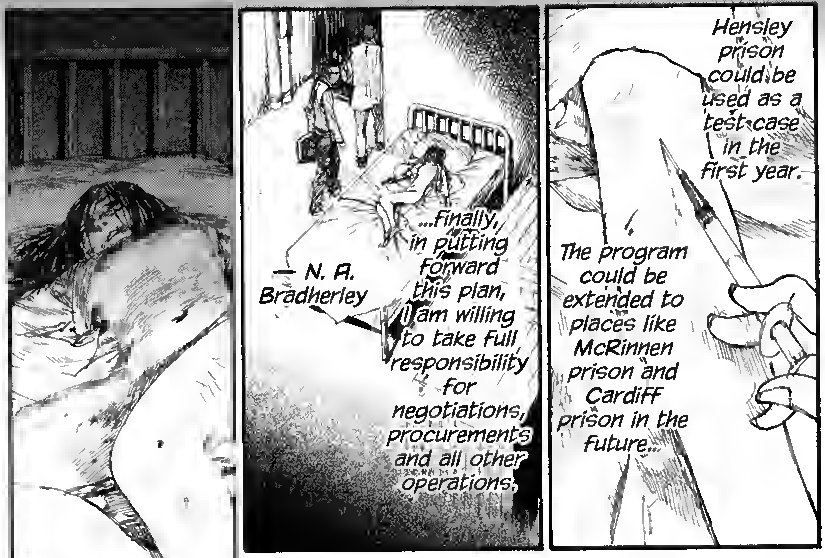

I call for the "Plan 1-14" first tabled just under two years ago, to be urgently reconsidered.
The memory of 37 who died in the Hensley Uprising is still fresh today.

I believe this plan will achieve what is necessary.
Putting questions of morality aside,
Instead, we need to purge the sexual and violent urges of long-term and life prisoners.

- To be carried out annually.

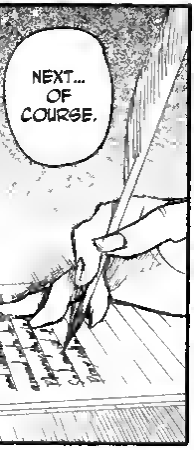
- They'll be procured from orphanages across the country, who will be compensated.
(Church orphanages were excluded. In order to minimize the negative impact, contracts were made with private orphanages experiencing financial difficulties, in exchange for economic assistance. At present, there are arrangements with 8 orphanages.)

- The girls used will be orphans.
(To ensure that girls were not physically underdeveloped, they ought to be at least 13 years old.)

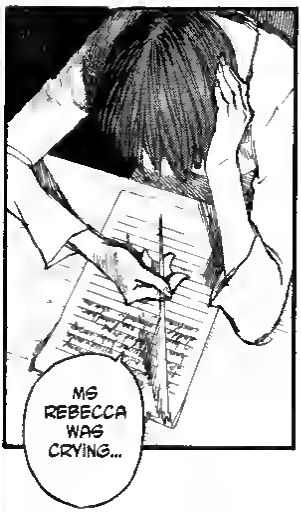

— N. A. Bradherley
...finally, in putting forward this plan, I am willing to take full responsibility for negotiations, procurements and all other operations.
Hensley prison could be used as a test case in the first year.
The program could be extended to places like McRinnen prison and Cardiff prison in the future...

...
...

CANAAN
...


NEXT... OF COURSE.

HUH!? YOU'RE WRITING A LETTER ALREADY, CORDY!?
EH HEH HEH, YUP.


MS REBECCA WAS CRYING...

WERE THE WILD ROSES IN BLOOM ON THE RIDGE WHERE YOU LOOK BACK AT HOME?
There's a small but beautiful cluster of wild roses growing on the ridge
Because it looks a lot like the hill on which the Willows is built,
A nearby poplar that's shed all it's flowers looks down on it.
For an instant, all the hopes and fears about the future soaking the girl's heart vanish
Along the road between the Willows orphanage and the Bradherley castle.

...I WENT TO BUY POTS IN BEZIERS
At that moment, the driver who might be observing her out of the corner of his eye...
And she turns to look back, thinking of the friends she left behind.
BUT THE SHOP HAD CLOSED
SO I TOOK THE CITY'S MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL
Though gruff and out of tune, the driver's singing makes her smile.
And that's why people call it the ridge where you look back at home.
END

Chapter 2
友達
FRIEND